

Remarks

The specification has been amended to add section headings.

The previously pending claims have been replaced with new claims.

The new claims avoid the objection to the drawings and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4, and 6 were rejected as anticipated by GAY et al. 5,163,912. Claims 1-8 were rejected as unpatentable over GAY et al. in view of SAMSON et al. 6,197,014. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the new claims.

GAY et al. disclose a catheter and stylet for introducing a vent catheter into the left ventricle of a heart or other organs of a patient, to drain accumulated fluids from the heart or other organs. The catheter has a plurality of openings generally adjacent its distal ends. The openings as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of GAY et al. are aligned.

SAMSON et al. disclose a catheter section having a number of radially placed holes through the catheter section wall with braided metallic reinforcing member. According to the description, a catheter assembly including this catheter section may be used in accessing and treating a tissue target within the body which is accessible through the vascular system. The aim of

these holes is "to spray" the tissue target with the drugs and thus allow a more spread-out diffusion pattern.

On the contrary, the catheter of the present application is a catheter modified in order to be used only for subcutaneous administration of drugs; in other words the catheter is not suitable to be inserted into the vascular system but only in the subcutaneous tissues, avoiding the problem of pomphus, macro-collection of liquid in localized areas of the patient's subcutis, especially when the patients undergo long-term administration.

Another aim of the invention is to prevent the diseases which might be transmitted by human fluids as HIV, to the operator removing the use of perforated needles.

By way of further explanation, the new claims are allowable because neither GAY et al. nor SAMSON et al. disclose a hollow cannula that is 35-45 mm long and that has plural holes extending through a lateral exterior surface to an interior of said cannula, wherein the first hole is spaced from the support a first distance that avoids discharge of an infused liquid from the first hole into skin of a patient into which the catheter is injected. There is no suggestion in the references to provide the first hole at this distance (e.g., distance "d" in Figure 1 of the present application). These references disclose devices for other purposes and one of skill in the art would not learn from these references that the first hole should be positioned as

claimed. Claim 10 is allowable because the references do not disclose the specific distance claimed.

Further, the references do not disclose that the guide needle inside the cannula is completely removable from the cannula through the support. Note, for example, that GAY et al. disclose a stylet 14 that has two positions inside the cannula (column 3, line 62 through column 4, line 27). This is a primary feature of the GAY et al. device and would not be dropped from the proposed combination with SAMSON et al.

The references also do not disclose that each of the plural holes in the cannula is centered on a different longitudinal line on the exterior surface (e.g., see Figure 1 of the present application and the discussion at page 4, lines 21-27). In each reference, the holes are aligned on the same longitudinal line. The references also do not appear to disclose that each of the plural holes has a diameter smaller than a diameter of the open end of the cannula. Accordingly, new claims 11-12 further avoid the rejections.

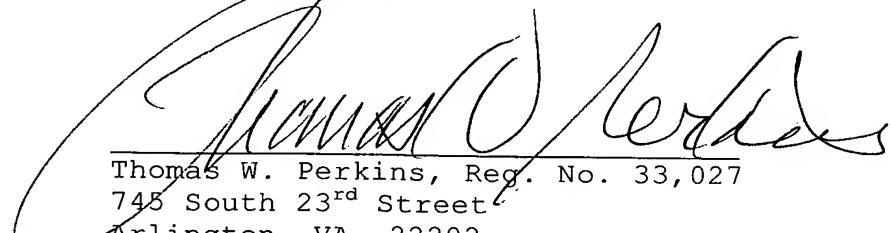
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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